

Coot & Holler Gazette

Vol. 24, No. 3, Saturday, August 30, 2025

Submit material to cootnholler@otr.org by 4 p.m. daily.
Or drop a written blurb in the envelope at Cooters.



OTR Schedule SATURDAY

8 a.m.	OTR 5K Run/Walk; (meet at Front Gate at 7:30 a.m.)
8–9 a.m.	Yoga for Cavers; Event Tent
9 a.m.–9 p.m.	Registration Office open
9 a.m.	Cable Ladder & Vertical contests begin
9:30 a.m.	Long-Range Planning Committee; AVP camp (behind WOTR)
10 a.m.–Noon	Sauna opens - Textiles Only
11 a.m.	The Mad Hatter Tea Party Caving Unfestival; Pavilion
11 a.m.	Carbide Lamp, Chug, OTR Trivia, Poster contests begin; Pavilion
11 a.m.	Cave Pack, Maggot Races, Sleeping Bag contests begin; Map #22
11 a.m.	‘Batman the Magician’; Pavilion
11 a.m.	Cooters Pub opens
11 a.m.–4 p.m.	OTR Museum open
11 a.m.–4 p.m.	Speleo-Obstacle Course open
Noon	The 8th Annual Bubbles Fun Run; Memorial Garden
Noon	Kids Activities; Pavilion
Noon–4 p.m.	Brew Crew open; Pavilion
Noon–9 p.m.	Decontamination Station open
12:30–3:30 p.m.	Live music: Tim White & JB Stalnaker; Pavilion
12:30 p.m.	The Raunchy River Jam; River Stage
1–4 p.m.	OTR Merchandise Sales open; Pavilion
1–2 p.m.	TRA Town Hall Meeting; (between bonfire & Pavilion)
3–4 p.m.	Knot Tying with Dan, Event Tent
5–6 p.m.	“Thomas Jefferson's Old Bones” (Haynes Cave, WV); Event Tent
6:30 p.m.	West Virginia Speleological Survey Fall (OTR) Business Meeting; Event Tent
7 p.m.	The 37th Annual Doo-Dah Parade; (begins at Entrance ‘Gate Mahal’ - Map #4)
8 p.m.	Brew Crew re-opens; Pavilion
Dusk (±8:30)	Movie; Crawl-In Theater
8:30 p.m.	"1934 Map of Sharp's Cave"; Event Tent
9 p.m.–Midnight	Live music: The Darkside Experience; Pavilion
2 a.m.	Last Call at Cooters Pub (may close earlier)
2 a.m.	Last Call at Brew Crew; Pavilion
4 a.m.	Sauna closes

Yoga for Cavers (8–9 a.m.) Emilee Goodman

This gentle Hatha yoga flow helps revitalize the body and mind to promote overall strength and wellbeing. “Yoga is a great way to prevent injuries and decrease recovery time physically, while meditation and breathwork help with focus and emotional resilience. These skills are helpful in the cave, and beyond,” she says. These classes unite your breath and body—offering a variety of poses accessible to all ages and experience levels. We will focus on poses that encourage strength, flexibility, balance, and relaxation. Bring a mat and treat yourself right by exploring the world of yoga this weekend! Please bring a yoga mat or towel as well as some water.

“When Guano Happens” (1–3 p.m.) Hosted by Earl Suitor

Co-sponsored by ER-NCRC (Eastern Region-National Cave Rescue Commission) and CACRT (Central Appalachian Cave Rescue Team). Come see what recent TRA grant recipients have accomplished with financial support from TRA.

Knot Tying With Dan (3–4 p.m.)

While you may have found yourself following the old adage “If you can’t tie a knot, tie a LOT!” at least once in your life, have you ever wanted to be able to tie a knot, *and* tie a lot, simultaneously? Please consider yourself invited to stop by and learn, and join us as we learn a few of the greats from the fascinating and useful art of knot-tying!

Planned are methods for tying turkshead knots, several turkshead knot interweaves, and gaucho knots without using any jigs/pins, as well as other such purposeful entanglements. For this event, Dan suggests 4–6 feet 550 paracord is the best for learning. We’ll try to have some available but please feel free to bring your own. Please consider a small donation to offset cordage purchase.

“Thomas Jefferson’s Old Bones” (5–6 p.m.) E. Ray Garton: Haynes Cave, WV

First Aid Fund Raiser!

Buzzzzzz City Grotto 3CD set
Raffle tickets
3.00 or 2 for 5.00
20.00 for an arm length
Drawing at Band Aid
Not for sale! So buy your chances at First Aid!

Did you come as a guest? EZTRA forms available at Cooters. Only \$5 to join all weekend! See Sharon, Stacy, or Amanda.

Happy Birthday, Charlie!

Alex is single this year and looking for some loving. Follow his voice, he will serenade you by the river. ♥

The **Dead Puppies** thank the person who found and returned Sarah’s sausage wallet!



West Virginia Speleological Survey (WVASS) Business Meeting (6:30 p.m.)

Agenda includes reports of the various survey and cave-inventory work completed in West Virginia over the past year. Anyone with an interest in such work is invited to attend.

“1934 Map of Sharp’s Cave” (8:30 p.m.) *Bob Hoke*

“Schoolhouse Cave” (9–10 p.m.) *E. Ray Garton*

Presentation featuring the newly discovered and digitized movie, *Underground Adventure*, which was first shown at the 1957 NSS Convention.

Jim Van Gundy, a retired professor, caver and geologist, will be doing a presentation titled ***The Geology of Caves and Their Origins*** at the Appalachian Forest Discovery Center (2 Railroad Ave, Elkins) on Saturday, August 30 at 3:30 p.m. The general public, including OTR attendees, is welcome to attend.

BEFORE YOU GO CAVING: We strongly recommend that you fill out a CAVER ALERT INFORMATION SHEET (CAIS) found in the RED BOXES on campground Bulletin Boards, Registration, First Aid, and the Gate. Leave it with your Emergency Contact (someone who is not going on your trip). **DO NOT LEAVE IT AT THE GATE OR AT REGISTRATION.** The CAIS tells your Emergency Contact where you are going and when you are due back. **Be sure to let your Emergency Contact know when you return.**

MYSTERY MISSING RADIO—\$100 REWARD!! The TRA Radio System used at OTR has very nice high quality professional grade radios. They are apparently so good that one was Lost (or Stolen?) our first year! Number 9 (but labels may be missing). Dear #9, PLEASE come Home, no questions asked? OR a \$100 Reward for information leading to prosecution . . . Please contact TRA Radio Krewe Chief Gene Harrison, 702-585-4565

Trash cans are **not for camp trash**. Take your camp trash to the dumpsters please.

Help **clean the river**. Find Brad Smith. Look for the SpongeBob hat.

The **porta potty** nearest Security is not flushing. We dug (?) for over 2 hours and can't get it to flush!

LOST: Orange box filled with precious memories. Return to Northern New Jersey Grotto.

The Sunday 5:30 **Baby Shower** for Trisha & Connor Wickline **has been canceled**. We will celebrate after the grilled cheese party at The Zoo. Cookies & cupcakes 🍰 ~Sharon

Crawl-In Theater (@ Dusk, Weather Permitting)

This year's film festival will feature:

Saturday: *How to Train Your Dragon 2*, 102 minutes

Sunday: *How to Train Your Dragon–The Hidden World*, 104 minutes

No dragons or white rabbits were harmed in the making of these films.

What's Up? (8/30/25) by Joel Jacobs

Cepheus is one of the 9 circumpolar constellations. At different times of the year, it can look like a pup tent or a one-story house with a peaked roof. In Greek mythology, Cepheus was the king of Ethiopia. He was the husband of Cassiopeia, the father of Andromeda, and the father-in-law of Perseus. Cepheus and Cassiopeia were turned to stone when they did not avert their eyes from the head of Medusa. He was placed in the sky by Zeus, after his unfortunate death, as he was the descendent of one of Zeus's lovers, the nymph Io, now known as one of the 4 Galilean moons of Jupiter.

Holes by Joel Jacobs

Chapter 3 - Balls

I worked my way over to Melissa and we both looked down upon a room that was swathed in white. The floor was about 8 feet below us. The wall we were above was chock full of hand and foot holds. Climbing back up would be easy. I swiveled my legs around so they hung over the drop, pushed off, slid down onto the floor and extended a gloved hand up to take Melissa's as she joined me.

We turned around to see that a passage continued past the ivory colored room into a darkness which seemed protected by a staggered series of columns. We approached this area and peeked through the tree-like formations. The beams of our lights landed on a white animal with glowing, almond shaped colorless eyes who was sitting up on its thick back legs chewing on something in its hands, a round object that could have been a white golf ball.

As soon as our illumination landed on the critter, it pivoted toward our lights. Yellow beams projected from its eyes as it reached down, picked up something and threw it at us with tremendous force. It clanked off of Melissa's hard hat with a cracking sound. "Hey, that thing just broke my helmet," she cried. "Watch out. It's dangerous."

As it reached for another missile, I said, "Douse the lamps. Quick!" and I retrieved the first object from the floor. It was a pink Calloway golf ball. The second projectile dinged off one of the columns in a spray of calcite and landed at my feet. It was a lime green Titleist.

With our lights off, the being resumed doing what it was doing before we interrupted it, which was slicing through a white ball with what looked like chrome incisors held in hands that resembled a squirrel's with sharp stainless steel claws. It was swallowing the pieces as it hummed a tune that sounded like, "I'm, I'mm, I'mmm, I'mmmm."

To be continued . . .